

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE DISTRACTION



- Any distractions that occur while you are trying to concentrate on a difficult task can be annoying.
- Distractions while driving an automobile or other type of transport can be deadly. In 2009, 5,474 people were killed in crashes involving driver distraction. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has instituted several [programs](#) to stop these hazardous practices.
- These problems are not limited to operating automobiles, trucks and buses. Railroads reflect the culture of the wider society. This table shows examples of rail accidents involving distracted operation mainly with cell phones and texting.

RSAC Meeting
FRA Admin J Szabo Speech
Impact of Distracting Devices
FRA Actions on Distraction

(Click on the location for more details)

DATE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
4/2002	Clarendon, TX	1 Dead \$8,000,000 Damages
5/2004	Guntre, TX	1 Dead \$2,6000,000 Damages
4/2006	San Antonio, TX	4 Injured \$400,000 Damages
9/2008	Chatsworth, CA	25 Dead \$7,000,000 Damages

- As a result of the accident at Chatsworth, California the FRA issued an Emergency Order: [FRA Emergency Order No. 26, Notice No. 1](#) to restrict on-duty railroad operating employees' use of cellular telephones and other distracting electronic and electrical devices.
- In September of 2010 FRA amended its railroad communications regulation [49 CFR 220 Part C](#) by restricting use of mobile telephones and other distracting electronic devices by railroad operating employees. This rule codifies most of the requirements of FRA Emergency Order No. 26, which was supplanted by this final rule on March 28, 2011. FRA has revised some of the substantive requirements of that Emergency Order as well as its scope to accommodate changes that FRA believes are appropriate based upon its experience with the Emergency Order and in response to public comments submitted in response to the proposed rule.
- On April 21th 2011 FRA hosted a Summit to discuss Electronic Device Distractions. Attendees included Railroad Management and Labor, representatives from the AAR and ASLRRA, and other leading industry experts. Presentations and discussions will be used as the basis for developing action plans to deal with distractions.
- May 20, 2011 a Rail Safety Advisory Committee meeting ([RSAC](#)) was held (remarks by Federal Railroad Administrator [Joe Szabo](#)) and one of the topics was [electronic device distraction](#). After discussion, a proposal was made to accept "Preventing Electronic Device Distraction" as an RSAC Task. The full RSAC committee voted to accept the task. Members will send a list of designees to serve on a Working Group by June 11th 2011. This working group will develop a plan to help eliminate distractions.
- October 25, 2011 the [RSAC Electronic Device Distraction](#) (EDD) Working Group met and discussed processes that could be used to prevent distractions. A Task Force was formed to develop an Education and Outreach Program.